

REMARKS

No claims have been canceled, amended or added in this paper. Therefore, claims 1-2, 7-15 and 17-44 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1-2, 7-15, 17-22, 27, 32-33 and 35-44 have been withdrawn as being directed at a non-elected invention or a non-elected species, as explained further below. Therefore, claims 23-26, 28-31 and 34 are under active consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office sets forth the following election of invention requirement:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-2, 7-15 and 17-22, drawn to a stent delivery system, classified in class 623, subclass 1.11.

II. Claims 23-44, drawn to a method of manufacture, classified in class 29, subclass 516.

In response to the above requirement, Applicant respectfully elects Group II, claims 23-44.

In addition to making the foregoing election of invention requirement, the Patent Office also sets forth the following election of species requirement in the outstanding Office Action:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A shown in figures 1-7 & 9

Species B shown in figure 8

Species C shown in figures 10 & 11

Species D shown in figures 12 & 13

Species E shown in figures 14 & 15

Species F shown in figure 16.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

In response to the above requirement, Applicant respectfully elects Species A, the species shown in figures 1-7 & 9. Claims 23-26, 28-31 and 34 are readable on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 11, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 11, 2005.

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Dated: April 11, 2005